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ARTICLES MINISTRED IN the Visitation of the Right Worshipfull Mr. DOCTOR SHARPE Archdeacon of Barkeshire, in the yeare of our Lord God. 1615.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA



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THE CHVRCH OR PLACE of common prayer.

IN primis, whether your Chancell, & Churth or Chappell be sufficiently repaired, as well in stone, timber, lead, tyle, glasse, as all other necessary things, and if they bee not, through whose default the same is omitted?

2 Whether your Churchyard be sufficiently fenced and decently kept, and the trees therein growing not spoiled, if not in whose default?

3 Whether the wals of your Church, bee within whited, and beautified with fruitfull sentences out of the holy Scriptures, and paued comely in the body of the Church and Chauncell, and conuenient seates placed in the Church and Chancell, for the necessary vse of the parishioners in time of diuine service?

4 Whether you haue in your parish Church and Chappell, all things necessary for the setting forth of common prayer, and the administration of the Sacraments: namely the book of cōmon prayer lately set forth by his Maiesties authority, the English Bible in the largest volume, the two Tomes of Homilies; and whether are the ten Commandements set vpon the East ende of your Church or Chappell where the people may best see and reade them: a conuenient Pulpit well placed, a decent table standing on a frame, for the holy communion, with a faire linnen cloath to lay vpon the same, & some couering of silke buckerome, or other such like, for the cleane keeping thereof, a comely communion cup of silver, with a cover of silver for the same, a decēt surples with large sleeues, a register book of parchment of christnings, weddings and burials according to the 70. Constitution', a Font fastned in some conuenient place of the church sweet and decently kept, a sure coffer with three locks and keyes for the keeping of the said Register booke, and a strong chest or box with three locks and keys to put in the almes, & other things belonging to the premisses?

5 Whether your church and chancel be kept cleane and decent-

ly, at all times, and especially against time of divine service, by such as are especially appointed for the purpose? and whether is your Chancell well paued or no?

The service and sacraments vsed in the Church.

6 Whether doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, or any other within your parish, or elsewhere neere about the same within the Archdeaconrie of Barkshire, to your knowledge, or as you haue heard by common report, vse the ministration of the Lords supper, and Baptisme, instruction of children, solemnization of matrimony, the visitation of the sicke, the buriall of the dead, and the churching of women, in such manner and forme and order and with such manner of words, as are set forth and prescribed in the booke of common prayer. If not, then what other forme or manner doth he or they vse in the premisses, or any of them? And doe not they vse the ring in mariage, and crossing the childes head in Baptisme?

7 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, or any other within your Parish or else where, neere about the same, within the Archdeaconry of Barkshire, to your knowledge, or as you haue heard by common report, haue preached, declared, vttered, or spoken any thing against the said booke of common prayer, or any thing therein cõtained, or against any doctrine, office or calling ecclesiastical with in this Realme, established by publique authoritie, or against the ordination or election of Archbishops, Ministers, Deacons, or any of them, and what was the thing, or fault found, vttered, declared, or preached, and by whom?

8 Whether haue you alwell vpon Sundayes, and Holy-daies as vpon Wednesdaies, Fridaies, and Saterdaies, service in your Church or Chappell, according to the order, appointed by lawfull authoritie, and whether doth your Minister in time of divine service and at the ministration of the sacraments alwaies vse and weare the surplesse?

9 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, doe every Sunday when there is no sermon, reade plainely some part of the Homilies prescribed to be read. Or whether any of them not being found to

haue

haue sufficient ability to preach or not lawfully admitted thereunto do take vpon them to expound any part of the scripture, & thereby omit the reading of Homilies?

10 Whether any doe presume to say service in your Church or Chappell openly, who is not a lawfull Minister and sufficiently licensed by the Ordinary of this Archdeaconry, vnder the seale of his office?

11 Whether doth your Minister preach vsually according to the constitutions: either in his owne cure with you, or else in some other Church, or Chappell neere adioining where no preacher is? or how often hath he bin negligent in this behalfe?

12 Whether is your Minister, a preacher allowed, if yea; then by whom? if not, whether doth he procure sermons to be preached among you, once in euery month at the least, by such as are lawfullie licenced?

13 Whether hath your Minister an other benefice, & whether doth he supply his absence by a Curate that is sufficiently licenced to preach in that cure of his, whereon he himselfe is not resident? Or otherwise in case he doth not finde a preaching Minister there, by reason of the smalnes thereof? whether doth hee preach at both his benefices vsually himselfe?

14 Whether doth your Minister euery sixth moneths denounce in his parish all such of his parish as doe perseuere in the sentence of excommunication, not seeking to be absolued, and whether hath hee receiued any excommunicate person into Church without a certificate from the Ordinary?

15 Whether hath your Minister, or any other vnder pretence of liberty or priuiledge, or whatsoeuer else excuse, preached, baptized children (except in time of great necessitie as in the 69. Canon) solemnized mariage, churched any woman, or ministred the holy communion in any priuate house or houses, except vpon speciall cause allowed, yea or no? if yea, then where, whom, when, and how often hath he offended in any of the premises?

16 Whether the communion be administred monthly, where the parishes be great, or else so often euery yeare as that the parishioners may receaue three times at the least yearely?

17 Whether your Minister hath vsed the forme of thankesgiving for any woman after child-birth being vnlawfullly begotten with child otherwise then in a forme of a penitent person, viz. in a white sheet or other habit, prescribed by the Ordinarie, or vpon any other day then a sunday or holy day: or before sufficient caution taken, that she should not depart the Parish till shee should performe such penance as should be enioined by the Ordinary.

18 Whether any receiued the holy Communion in any other place or Parish, forsaking their owne Parish? And whether any children haue been baptised in any other parish or place, thē there where they were borne?

19 Whether any hath beene admitted as Godfather, or Godmother, that had not before that time receiued the communion?

The office and function of Ministers and Schoolmasters.

20 Whether doth your Minister, or Curate, serue more then one Church or Chappell in one day, except that Chappell be a member of the Parish Church.

21 Whether doth your Minister once every yeare reade the booke of Canons or Constitutions openly in your Church vpon some sonday or holy day?

22 Whether doth your Minister every Sunday and Holy day before evening prayer, for halfe an houre and more examine and instruct the youth and ignorant persons in his parish of the ten Commaundements, Articles of beleefe, and in the Lords prayer, as also in the Catechisme set forth in the book of common prater? And whether doe all fathers, mothers, masters & mistresses, cause their children, servants, and apprentises to come thither to heare and to be instructed and taught therein accordingly as it is prescribed in the 59 Constitution. And if either Minister, or any of the rest of your parish be faultie or negligent therein, you shall not spare to present them howsoever, viz. the Minister for his negligence in not taking paines and the housholders with their servants for their carelesnesse in not sending, or comming, or refusing to learne?

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23 Whether there be within your Parish, or elsewhere neere about, any preaching, reading, or other such like exercise, in any private houses, whervnto others do resort, not being of the same family. And whether any do preach, read, or catechise in the church, or elsewhere, that doth not at divers times yearely say service, & minister the sacraments according to order appointed by publique authority? *Private exercise of religion.*

24 Whether the Register of all weddings, burying, & christenings within your Parish be well kept, & a copy of the same once every yeare by Indenture presented to the Ordinarie? *Registers.*

25 Whether in the weeke before Whitsontide, commonly called Rogation weeke, your perambulatiõ be kept by your Minister with a sufficient number of the parishioners of all sorts, aswel of the Elder as younger sort, for the better knowledge of the circuits, and bounds of the parish, with praiers for the better increase of the fruits of the earth, according to the order in that behalfe provided?

26 Whether the Mansion houses of your Parsons and Vicars be kept in good reparation, and whether hath your Parson or Vicar bin absent from among you aboue eighty daies in any one yeare at al, not being lawfully qualified and dispensed withall?

27 Whether your Minister be suspected to be guilty of any notorious crime, as Symony, adultery, blasphemy, periury, drunkennes, idlenes, vnseemly and vaine talke, & whether he be scandalous in his cõversatiõ, through brawling, fighting, quarelling, peace breaking, vnlawful games, or hauting of places suspected, & not of good report and whether your Parson or Vicar be known, suspected, or reported to haue bought his benefice or come to it by any simoniacal compact made either by himselfe or others, directly or indirectly, or do let out his liuing or any part thereof to any, in consideration that hee hath obtained the same? Haue an especial care of this article.

28 Whether your Parson, or Vicar not resident vpon his benefice, being able yearely to dispend aboue twentie pounds by the said benefice, hath yearely given, distributed to the relefe of the poore & impotent of your Parish the fortieth part of his said benefice?

The office of Churchvvardens, and duties of the Parishioners.

29 Whether your Schoolemasters, and other teachers within your

your parish, be allowed by the Ordinary? And whether they do teach their schollers the catechisme, & do encourage them to loue true religion, and do cause them daily, morning & euening, to ioine togither in prayer vnto God, for increase of learning & of other his good graces? and whether they do instruct them to say grace before and after meate?

Of Matrimonie.

30 Whether any haue bin maried within your parish that haue not had their banes asked three seuerall Sundaies or Holydaies in time of diuine seruice in the presence of the people. vnlesse the same haue beene lawfully licenced by the Ordinary, vnder the seale of his office, and with such bands, as are vsually taken in like cases?

31 Whether any haue beene maried within your parish, that haue dwelt in other parishes, without a certificate of the banes asking from the Minister, or Curat of the parishes, where the said parties or any of them haue dwelt. And whether any mariage haue been solemnized in any other place, then in the Church, or at any time of the day that is not lawfully vsuall, or in the night.

32 Whether your Churchwardens are chosen yearely in the Easter week, and whether haue the Churchwardens your predecessors euery yeare in the Easter weeke, or within a moneth after at the most, before the Minister and the parishioners giuen vp a iust accompt in writing of all such money as they haue receiued and laid out to the vse of the poore, or of the Church: and then haue brought in and laid downe, and deliuered to the said parishioners whatsoeuer mony, or other things remained in their handes, that by the said parishioners it may be deliuered to the next Churchwardens by bil indented?

33 Whether they doe levie for not comming to Church, to heare diuine seruice vpon Sundaies and Holydaies, xii d. for everie person that is absent without lawfull cause, and whether hath the same bin bestowed vpon the poore as it ought or not, & whether the Churchwardens themselues haue absented themselues, or bin negligent in their duty, or in frequenting diuine seruice, and whether do your Minister admonish the Churchwardens openly in the Church

at morning & euening prayer to looke to their charge in this behalfe?

34 Whether they doe faithfully distribute the stocke of the poore mans boxe, and are carefull to call for, and to gather all such money, as is due vnto the Church, or to the poore of the Parish, either by Legacie, or by such as are buried in the Church, or by other meanes, and whether haue any of your churchwardens within these three yeares last past concealed any crime or other disorder in their time done in your parish and haue not presented the same?

35 Whether your parish Church, or chappell haue thereunto belonging, any lands, rents or stocks of mony, cattle or other goods and whether they be well preserued and kept without any diminution, or losse therof; how are they imployed? where and in whose hands they are, whether there be a note kept of them, and set downe in the Church booke; and whether they be denied, or deteined by any of the parish, or any other; and shew what those things be, and by whom they are detained?

36 Whether all the mony, rents, stocks, or profit of cattle or other goods giuen to the poore, or to other charitable vses; haue bin accordingly imployed, and whether the said mony, rents and profits or any part thereof haue beene imployed and conuerted to the reparations of the parish church or chappell?

37 Whether the people as well men as women do resort vnto their owne parish Church or Chappell on Sundaies, & Holydaies at time of diuine seruice, and remaine and abide, and there behaue themselues reuerently during all the whole time of Service and Sermons?

38 Whether any of the said parishioners doe vse any prophane worke or labour, or selling of victuals or wares vpon the Sabboth day, or any other day, that is appointed to be kept holy by publique authoritie?

39 Whether all the Parishioners being aboue xvi. yeares olde haue receiued the holy Communion thrise for the yeare last past, and namely at Easter last, or receiuing haue not signified the same to the Minister in time conuenient that he might examine them how they were instructed for partaking of so high misteries?

40 Whether any person within your Parish, be suspected or

knowne to tell destinies, or to restore things lost, & to vse charmes or to exercise witchcraft, sorceries, southsayings, and such other superstitious & divelish illusions, or any that resorteth to such for helpe or counsaile?

41 Whether any within your Parish, haue to your knowledge or by common fame or report, committed adultery, fornication, Incest, or be common Drunkards, Swearers, and Blaspheamers of Gods holy name, or vsurers, or be commonly suspected thereof, and what are their names?

42 Whether any within your Parish haue kept company togither as man and wife, before they were lawfully maried, or doe keepe company togither not being lawfully maried, or who haue bin lawfully and vpon iust cause diuorced; any maried within degrees of affinity or consanguinitie by the lawes of God forbidden so set out for an admonition in a table appointed to be affixed in euery Parish Church within this Archdeaconrie? Any maried that haue made priuy contracts or married without consent of their parents or gouernours?

43 Whether there be within your Parish, Bawdes, or that do receiue into their houses women begotten with childe vnlawfully, and doe keepe them vntil they be deliuered, and then let them depart before they haue done pennance?

44 Whether any person or persons suspected or detected heretofore, of, or for incontinencie, & therefore departing out of your parish for a season, is now returned againe, or in what place else, is he or shee now abiding to your knowledge, or as you haue heard, you shall not faile to present the whole truth in that behalfe?

45 Whether you know any within your parish, that receiueth into their house any Walking Priest, Iesuit, or other Seminary mā come from beyond seas?

46 Whether there be any within your parish, that presume to administer the goods of those that be departed out of this worlde, without lawfull authority, or haue falsified or suppressed the will of any person deceased, or any executors which haue not fulfilled their testators will in paying legacies giuen to good vses?

47 Whether any excommunicate person be suffered to come in-

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to the publike assembly or congregation in time of diuine seruice? & who are encouragers & keepers of company with such as remaine excommunicate? and whether any dying excommunicate be buryed in christian buriall?

48 Item what Recusant Papists are there in your parish, and whether doe they or any of them keepe any Schoolemaster in their house which cõmeth not to church to heare diuine seruice, & receiue the hol. communion? what is his name & how long hath hee taught?

49 Whether any be in your parish, which at time of diuine praier do vse any ringing of bels, iangling, talking, walking, or other vnseemely behauiour in church or churchyard, or doe any way disturbe common praier, or any part of the diuine seruice, or do vse any game or pastime abroad at those times, or sit in the Tauerne or Alehouse, or streets at such times, or which doe worke on sundaies any handycrafts worke, or keepe open any shops for sale of wares, or which depart before praiers bee finished, or cõmeth late, or which be fighters brawlers, quarrellers or chiders, in church or churchyard?

50 Whether you know, or haue you hard of any that practiseth physicke or surgery within this Archdeaconry, not being licensed so to doe by the Ordinary of the same vnder his hand & seale, and what is his, or her name, which doeth or hath so done?

51 Finally, if you doe knowe any other crime or offence to bee committed within your parish, which is punishable by the Ecclesiasticall lawes of this lande, and not mentioned particularly in these Articles aboue specified, you shall likewise detect it and truely present it?

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The oath of the Church-wardens.

YOu ſhall faithfully adminiſter all ſuch Church goods as are or ſhall come to your hands to the vſe of your Church and thereof make a true and faithfull account at the end of your office, deliuering all that remaineth therevpon to your next ſucceſſours. Alſo you ſhall diligently enquire of, and faithfully preſent all ſuch perſons as you ſhall either vpon your own knowledge, or by publike fame vnderſtand to be guiltie of any offence or fault mentioned in any of the Articles aforeſaid, or any other fault which is to bee puniſhed by the lawes Eccleſiaſtical of this Realme, wherein you ſhall not preſent any perſon for malice, hatred, or evil will, nor ſpare any for favour, for feare or any corrupt affection, but you ſhall faithfully diſcharge your conſciences, as men hauing the feare of God before your eyes, and ſeeking the reformation of his Church, ſo God helpe you in Chriſt our Saviour.